consider the resolution adopted in the third Conference of the Committee of the Rural Development Ministers of the North Eastern States and Sikkim at Kohima on 17.11.2000. The Committee *inter-alia* recommended review of the criteria of allocation of funds amongst North Eastern States by the Planning Commission taking into account the respective poverty ratios in the North Eastern States which could be derived on the basis of the latest Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

(b) The Committee felt that considering the special category status there is a case for change in the funding pattern of Rural Poverty alleviation Programmes from 75 : 25 to 90 : 10 ratio and recommended that the Planning Commission consider the suggestion.

(c) The Planning Commission is of the view that it will not be possible to provide separate poverty estimates for each of the North Eastern States due to data constraints. Also the recommended change in sharing of funds between Centre and States for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes from 75 : 25 to 90 : 10 for North Eastern States and other similarly placed States cannot be supported as it would result in reduction of funds earmarked for Rural Development Programmes.

Exemption from budgetary allocation for NER

1185. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) which Ministries have been exempted from obligatory allocation of 10 per cent of their budgets to North Eastern Region;

(b) the total amount in the non-lapsable pool upto 31st March, 2002 and the amount added during the current year; and

(c) the Government's plan for the development of North-East?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The following Union Ministries/ Departments are exempted from the mandatory requirement of spending 10% of their Budget on the North East and Sikkim:

1. Expenditure;
2. Revenue;

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3. Planning;
4. Ocean development;
5. Space;
6. Supply;
7. Atomic Energy;
8. Economic Affairs;
9. External Affairs;
10. Petroleum & Natural Gas;
11. Sugar and Edible Oils;
12. Steel;
13. Legal Affairs;
14. Personnel and Training;
15. Bio-Technology;
16. Science and Technology;
17. Scientific and Industrial Research;
18. Official Language;
19. Company Affairs.

In case of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the exemption is limited to the programmes of Scheduled Caste Division, where, instead of 10% only 2% is required to be earmarked. In respect of all other programmes, the Ministry is required to earmarked the stipulated 10% of the Budget for the North East and Sikkim.

(b) An inter-ministerial consultation process has been initiated to reconcile the amounts to be transferred by the concerned Union Ministries/ Departments to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources during the last four financial years. The amount to be contributed by the Union Ministries/Departments to the Central Pool during the current financial year can be known only after the financial year is over.

(c) Improvements in the infrastructure and access to basic social services especially education, health, drinking water and basic sanitation, expansion of economic and social opportunities for all, reduction in

disparities, greater participation in decision making, provisioning of adequate level of consumption of food and other consumer goods, improving air connectivity, making the region a more alternative destination for private investment, exploring avenues for cooperation with countries bordering the region etc. are the main thrust of the Government's development plan in the North Eastern States.

Progress of disinvestment in ITDC hotels

1186. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how far the efforts of Government to disinvest for sale or leasing out the hotels run by ITDC has progressed;

(b) the amount of money released by disinvestment of hotels;

(c) the number of hotels sold out and the amount of money released through this process; and

(d) the number of hotels which were leased out and on what terms?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Till date, investment of 100% Government equity in 11 hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC) has been completed and 1 hotel, namely, Hotel Ashok Bangalore (including Airport Restaurant) has been given on Lease-cum-management contract. The broad terms of the contract are given at Statement (*See* below). The realisation to Government, CPSUs and other statutory bodies from these transactions was Rs. 234.79 crores.

Statement

Broad terms of the lease-cum-management contract of Hotel Ashok Bangalore (including Airport Restaurant):

Term: The term of the lease for the hotel is from 29.12.2001 to 31.3.2032, renewable by mutual consent of Government of India and M/s Bharat Hotels Limited for another period of 30 years. The sub-lease Agreement for operating and managing the Airport Restaurants is from